ways and the funds allocated therefor during the years 1989-90 and 1990-91;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the rate; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The requirements per kilometre for maintenance of National Highways are worked out on the basis of norms evolved by a High Level Technical committee. These norms are inter-alia based on various factors such as length and width of the road surface, traffic intensity physical and climatic conditions etc. In addition, provisions for Flood Damage & Special Repairs are made. The actual allocations, however, depend upon the overall availability of resources. The funds allocated for maintenance of National Highways during 1989-90 & 1990-91 were:

Year	Allocation (Rs. in lakhs)
1989-90	14355
1990-91	15312

(b) and (c) The requirement of maintenance funds are worked out every year as per norms at the currently applicable rates of materials and labour and actual needs of repairs due to flood damages etc. However, actual allocations are made depending on the available resources.

[English]

Investment in Ethiopia

4124. SHRI PRAKASH PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ethiopia has invited India to invest in that country in small and medium industries, particularly in the field of agro-industries, readymade garments, leather garments and construction works; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE DUPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Import of Tea at Competitive Price

4125. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Multinational Tea Companies have requested the Government that exporters should be allowed to import tea at competitive prices for blending into high value branded and packaged tea for export to hard currency markets; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Government have received such requests. However Government's policy is that import of tea for purposes of value-addition and firmly linked to export alone could be considered under the Advance Licensing Scheme. Import of tea for domestic consumption is not allowed.

Import of Books

4126. PROF. MALINI BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to widen the scope of open General License to cover all categories of books for import;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) other measures proposed to be taken by the Government for liberalising the import of specialised scholarly books and for rationalisation of import of books, periodicals and teaching aids?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) Review of Import Export Policy is a continuous process and necessary corrective measures thereunder are taken, as and when the situation so warrants, after taking into consideration all the relevant factors and keeping in view the needs of the economy. The changes in the policy as and when made, are notified in the Gazette of India.

Bank Note Press at Salboni (West Bengal)

4127. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have started construction work of the new bank note press at Salboni in West Bengal for which land was acquired a few years back;

(b) if so, the progress made so far and the time by which it is likely to be completed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHIR DALBIR SINGH) : (a) and (b) : The project is being implemented by Reserve Bank of India. Civil construction work has already started. Work relating to placement of order for supply of equipment is under process. The first phase of the project is likely to be completed by June 1993 and the entire project by 1994-95.

(c) Does not arise.

Export of Silk Yarn

4128. SHRI C. P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to export silk yarn;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total quantity of silk yarn proposed to be exported from Karnataka State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) No, Sir,

(b) & (c) Do not arise.

Reconstruction of old Mandovi Bridge

4129. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the date on which the old Mandovi Bridge on National Highway No. 17 collapsed;

(b) when and to whom the tender was awarded for the repairs/reconstruction of the old Mandovi Bridge and the amount of the contract awarded;

(c) the specified time limit and the penalty in the contract for not completing the work in the stipulated time-limit;

(d) the amount so far received by the contractor; and

(e) when the old Mandovi Bridge is likely to be completed?